

CANADA.

FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS—FINANCIAL CONCERN—
MENT—A TERRIFIED GOVERNMENT—LIES
FOR PUBLIC AUDITORS—PROVINCIAL
DEBT—AGRICULTURAL DISTRESS.

With that had many a malcontent,
Who could not brook to be so treated,
That would not only a wretched slave,
Who worked his waistband in form of law.

From an Occasional Correspondent.

TORONTO, Monday, Feb. 28, 1859.
Most true it is that man is guided rarely by his reason, but often by his passions; yet while we have peace throughout America and Europe, it is the duty of the friends of peace earnestly to appeal to the reason of their rulers and of those who can influence the action of their rulers, for a removal of all just causes of discontent, according to their ability. Some weeks since I read in *Harper's Weekly* a leader exulting in the prosperity and content to be found in Canada. Being fallacious, it was calculated to do mischief.

Eighteen months since, when Mr. Isaac Buchanan, now the Representative in Assembly for Hamilton, was asked again to enter public life, he replied, June 6, 1856, "I would decline being a party to any attempt to work our present political system. There is no use to change your men, or to select others, who pretend to more popular principles. What is wanted is an entire alteration in the machinery of Government."

Mr. Buchanan was quite right, for how can the conduct of our public servants be properly investigated, if there is no constitutional check? How can the men who fill our highest offices be made to do their duty, in a country where they are above all law?

In 1849, one of our Colonial Ministers was associated with Messrs. Hume, Bright, Cobden, Milner Gibson, and others, in a society to try to obtain for Canada and certain other British Colonies the right to meet and frame and alter their Constitutions at pleasure. The sooner we of Canada are placed in the way of exercising properly such powers over our institutions as were then contemplated by Sir W. Molesworth, the less likely is the tranquillity of the American continent to be again disturbed by the effects of Canadian misrule.

The time cannot be far distant when my repeated warnings relative to the desperate condition of the finances of Canada will be proved well-founded. The *Toronto Globe* correctly describes this country as being very near the gulf of public bankruptcy. The Governor and other State managers have but little interest in the result beyond their salaries, or any secret bonus either of them might obtain out of a clever shuffle of the 6 per cent bonds of the Col. or the 4 per cent bonds of the Prov. or the 5 per cent bonds of the City. We seem, to me, very much to resemble Illinois in finance. There they do not know what they owe; frauds turn up from time to time of a gigantic character, and then there is a partial investigation, after which all is hushed up again. Illinois, however, is more to blame than Canada, for she has always possessed ample powers to investigate, which the friends of financial honesty here have not. So poorly is misconduct in finance checked in Canada, that, as in 1837, we are likely, ere long, to have no finances whatever to check.

To show how anxious the Government of Sir E. Head is for concealment of the real condition of the public debt and revenue, and the terror it is in lest full inquiry should exhibit yet more damning frauds, and cause even more shameful exposures than have yet been made, I now proceed to state an important fact.

Mr. George Brown and eleven of his political friends were asked by Gov. Head last August to accept the chief offices which the old State managers had just vacated. They gladly accepted them; but, by a very discreditable shuffle, which had Sir Bulwer Lytton been a man of spirit and energy, and endowed with a high sense of honor, would have caused Gov. Head's immediate recall, were elected two days, and the old managers fraudulently reinstated.

There can be no appropriations for any purpose whatever by the Legislature, except where the Governor has previously approved of every item of the proposed expenditure. There is no Audit in Canada of receipts and payments, except by those persons in office who are themselves receiving and expending the public money. There is, to be sure, a Mr. Langton and two or three other clerks or subordinates of Mr. Galt's department who profess to audit such special transactions as they are ordered to examine; and the only popular audit, as it is called, is by a standing Committee of Accounts, chosen annually by the Legislative Assembly, many of the returns of members to which are at present grossly unjust, false, and fraudulent, and this too by the connivance of persons selected by Sir E. Head to conduct the public business.

This annual Committee of Accounts is chosen by a select Committee named and moved by one of the Attorney Generals, seconded by the other; in other words, the "pretence Governor, from Europe, and his men, choose our only board of popular audit. The Governor and his subordinates and expensers of the annual audit, and to prove their own honesty, they select as a Legislative Committee of witnesses who will proclaim "all well" without asking unpleasant questions or permitting shameful disclosures. A majority of the members of the Audit Committee is often composed of persons little conversant with accounts, and always of ministerials.

Last year, however, the officials permitted Mr. Brown, the Upper Canada Opposition leader, to sit as one of its minority; and when some of the friends of the cabal joined him in permitting a wider range of inquiry than usual, it appeared that false and fraudulent entries had been wilfully made of very large sums, which it was pretended, in the official edition of the Public Accounts, had been paid on account of the public debt, when they had not, in fact, been so paid; that false entries had been made in the Provincial books of large amounts of debentures sold abroad; that Canada had lost over \$1,000,000 in London, and below that value, of two millions in Province bonds, while the authorities here were secretly lending \$600,000 to the Grand Trunk Railway Directors; &c. &c. Two millions were sold in London at 94, bearing six per cent of interest payable in Europe, on the very day when our sixes were quoted on the Exchange at 106; that \$80,000 of debentures of Hamilton City had been purchased of one Clarke of Guelph—a servile, worthless Assemblyman—by the Government at 97, when the market price was but 77; that \$80,000 had been paid to the Receiver General by the Great Western Railway Company, and never entered in the Province ledger; that a priest, who presides over education in Upper Canada, had put \$7,000 nearly of the interest of the official funds, with which he had converted some moneyed documents, and which he brought no punishment to the delinquents; that ancient votes of the Assembly, many years before, for money to meet the rebellion losses of 1837, had been used by Mr. Inspector Cleave as the basis of a loan in Europe, in or about 1856.

During the present session, the officials have punished Mr. Brown for his activity last year, by leaving him off the Accounts Committee altogether, although it stands 11 to 6 in his favor. In other words, they do not trust him on a Board of Inquiry into their financial conduct, although he could not have acted on a single question there but by consent of a majority of their own choice. Upper Canada pays three-fourths of the revenue of the United Provinces. Mr. Brown is usually followed by a majority of the Upper Canada delegation in Assembly, to add his name to those of the seven or eight selected by Messrs. J. A. Macdonald, Galt and their colleagues in office, Mr. Cleave, and, as the Governor's leading adviser, threatened the House that if it were not for them, they would resign the Government of the two Canadas! Under this extraordinary threat the vote was, Yeas 43, Nays 60—motion lost. Upper Canada voted yes; Lower Canada nay. This debate lasted a whole day. In the session of 1857, the Government chose an Accounts Committee, who were never allowed to meet! In 1856, they named as its Chairman a merchant who was about to leave for Europe! In 1854 and 1855, there was an able Committee, of which Mr. W. L. Mackenzie was Chairman, who reported that gross mismanagement prevailed, and that in six years the Provincial Treasurer's books had not once been balanced; that those of the Board of Works would not balance at all; that large sums were drawn from the public chest for specific purposes, and after a time drawn over again, under a pretence that the money had not been received; that the Treasurer and his Committee to inspect any books containing the public accounts, and the Government steadily resisted all attempts made in Assembly to permit Mr. Mackenzie to sit on it. Concealment is the rule of Canadian Government. Some one accidentally discovered, not long since, that 50,000 acres of public land, in very favorable locations, had been secretly sold to the Hudson's Bay Company for the moderate sum of £500.

It was a Committee of the Ohio Legislature who discovered the heavy financial frauds there; it was Lord Dalhousie's refusal of information to a similar Committee that subjected Lower Canada at one time to the loss of \$500,000, through the failure of its Receiver-General. I do not believe in Mr. Brown's schemes, but he truly described our condition as a province on the 9th inst., in Assembly. He said:

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Our local debt is stated at 50 or 60 millions, but as much of it is payable in London, with 6 per cent of interest there, it is equal to perhaps 80 or 90 millions of a three-per-cent debt; and Mr. Galt, the financial State physician last called in, denotes people with his nostrums for converting 40 to 45—how much the same with sham, which is a fraud—wants to place more taxation upon those imports which do not compete with home industry, which would produce more smuggling tips across the lines and less revenue, and drive our trade more and more into the American channel. A newspaper tax is to be levied forthwith, and French Canada, conciliated by a further expenditure of \$1,000,000 (to be drawn from impoverished Upper Canada), upon Lower Canadian tenants who are to be made landowners, not by paying for their farms, but by making Upper Canadians pay for them! The Custom-Houses on your side of the line and on ours would be useless in case of annexation. They cost vast sums of money yearly, and levy tea, coffee, tobacco and other taxes from us, which your people are not burdened with. We resisted annexation in 1849, and double taxation and poverty in 1859 is our reward! Our rulers forget that the power of Canada to sustain its credit ought not to be measured by its present wealth, but by the annual products of its wealth, by the means it has of converting its property into cash wherever it is required to sustain the burden of taxation and the payment of its obligations.

One of Mr. Controller Galt's "reforms" is to be the conversion of about ten millions of Provincial Loan Fund debentures into regular Provincial bonds. Gov. Hanks and his colleagues, in 1852, anticipated a temporary advantage to their faction, from having the power to authorize a species of semi-provincial debentures to be issued to those constituencies chiefly whose representatives would vote as they were told. They legalized their borrowing machinery thus: Towns, cities, counties, were, by the Executive, from time to time, at its option, to be authorized to borrow \$100,000, \$400,000, \$800,000, more or less, of scrip, for use stated; the Government was to take their bonds, and issue to them its bonds, and it was to try to enforce regular payments of interest, with two per cent a year toward liquidating the debt; and from the money thus raised, it was to pay the holders of the bonds. Clumsy as this machinery was, \$10,000,000 have been raised through its means; but half the borrowers don't pay the interest, &c.; Government don't enforce payment; the 6 per cent bonds, though legalized in lieu of Provincial stock as security for bank notes, and under par, while Government is at 115 in London. Mr. Galt wants these ten millions added (terms not known) to the public debt of Canada; and, as he is the wonderful genius who compiled the Grand Trunk Railway prospectus in London, promising the unfortunate victims of that bubble 114 per cent per annum, of which they have not yet seen, of profits, the first red cent; as, moreover, he wheeled round into the foremost rank of annexationists in 1849, and suddenly appeared as a contractor for a large section of the Grand Trunk in 1853, and now holds over with pure and fervent loyalty to royalty, there's no telling what he may not achieve.

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Last Thursday's *Protections* admits that "the distress that at present exists among much of the agricultural population of Western Canada amounts to something almost appalling. Hundreds, and perhaps thousands, of families, according to the reports that are coming in from all quarters, are in a state of immediate destitution, while others are mortgaging their farms, on unheard-of rates of interest, and plunging themselves irretrievably into the hands of the broker and the money-lender."

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try, on account of the treachery to the interests of their native State. They may abuse for a while in the eye of the President, but soon as they reach their homes, they will only learn how infinitely they have become.

Gen. Duff Green has been here some time trying to get an act of the Legislature incorporating a kind of *Credit Mobilier*, for the purpose of negotiating stocks, bonds, &c., in this country and Europe. The scheme is too comprehensive for this Legislature, and I am assured by several prominent members that it stands as much chance of passing as would a charter for the construction of a railroad to the moon.

The bill authorizing parties to unite to be called as witnesses has so far been unable to find sufficient supporters to pass it, though it will eventually become a law when people become more enlightened. Philadelphia Passenger Railway bills have been quite the absorbing topics of the session. Two rival companies, one under the Presidency of the Hon. James Cooper, late United States Senator, and the other under the Hon. William Millward, member of Congress elect for Philadelphia, each wishing for the same route. One company has its bill through the Senate—the other has its bill through the House, and now they are at a dead lock. Each company has a *big key*; therefore, a third party is being organized, who will, in a few days, pick their lock, and carry off the spoils.

Another exciting matter has been discussed on more days than one, that is, the pay of the members. The exhibitions of the greedy hunger of some of the members are astonishing. However, after painful struggles, they concluded to leave it as it was—the *low figure* of \$700 for the session. With high-minded men like Mr. Merritt, John Sargent, William Wilkins, Thaddeus Stevens, and hundreds of other men in the Legislature before them, \$3 a day was considered enough. Those who succeed them consider their services worth \$7—and more if they dared to take it.

The Fry divorce case has also caused a great deal of excitement among the lobbyists and a great number of the fair applicant, who has employed a score of lawyers, big and small, to engineer his case through the Legislature. As you published some of the papers in the case in your issue of Feb. 26, I will try and give you the impressions made upon the Legislature and the public by the argument of counsel of the parties before the Divorce Committee on Tuesday evening last. Mr. David Webster, Mr. Wm. L. Hirst, and the Hon. Thomas Corwin, appeared for Mrs. Fry, and Mr. W. Hayward Drayton and Mr. George W. Wharton for Mr. Fry.

Mr. Hirst, for Mrs. Fry, opened the case to the Committee, which sat in the Hall of the House of Representatives to accommodate the petitioners, who had brought a big gun here all the way from Ohio to make a buncombe speech, and to teach the Legislature of Pennsylvania the law regulating divorces. The argument was dull enough. Mr. Hirst apparently never felt that his case was so destitute of merit as when he arose to present it to the Committee. There were fifty good lawyers from different parts of the State sitting around him, watching him closely, expecting a brilliant opening. He was evidently much embarrassed for he could not but feel that his reputation was at stake on a most flimsy case, without evidence to support even one position taken in the petition of the applicant. He hounded along for over an hour, unsatisfactorily to himself, and highly so to the large auditory, for the House was filled to its utmost capacity. He frequently turned to his colleague, Mr. Webster, to be prompted; at last, not finding a convenient point at which he could stop, he merely yielded the floor to the other side, to hear what they had to say in opposition to the granting of the divorce, in order that his colleague from Ohio might answer them.

Mr. Drayton opened on behalf of the respondent, Mr. Fry (who was present and sat near his counsel), and made a good and clear statement of the whole case, enumerating the charges against Mr. Fry, and replying to them with much force and tact. He soon had the entire current of feeling in favor of his client. He spoke for nearly an hour, and was followed by Mr. Wharton, in a most masterly style. Mr. Wharton's statement of the case was clear, terse, and logical, and at times eloquent even beyond his wont. When he concluded there was not a man in the house whose sympathies were not with Mr. Fry, even if the wealth of John Grigg did loom up in the distance.

Mr. Corwin rose to reply and to conclude the argument in the case. He said he came here as the friend of Mr. Grigg, whom he had known from his early childhood. He came on the part of the old man to implore the Legislature of Pennsylvania to grant this divorce. It was a boon he asked with which to soothe the declining years of a man whose "well spent life" entitled him to consideration at their hands. In the whole case it was not pretended that there was any evidence that Mr. Fry had ever treated his wife ill, save the petition of Mrs. Fry, to which was appended her affidavit; and this was only treated by Mr. Corwin as a serious matter on the simple ground that it was sworn to by the lady, and she was a great distasteful to him, and unless the divorce should be granted, the wife would be the victim of his character. His appeal was pathetic, humorous, and in some places tender and eloquent. In speaking of Mr. Fry's writing letters home from West Point, that they were getting along happily, and of Mr. Fry introducing Wagner to Mrs. Fry, Mr. Hirst had alluded to the case of the confidence reposed by Mr. Sikes in Mr. Key. This was a most unhappy allusion, for it not only gave Mr. Wharton an opportunity to turn the tables upon the counsel for the petitioner, but it caused many persons who were present to inquire into the character of that man whose "well spent life" had been duly chronicled in *The Daily Democrat*, edited and published at Paterson, N. J., by John H. Gibson, Feb. 22, 1859.

It is a well-known fact that Mrs. Grigg sympathizes deeply with Mr. Fry in his afflictions, and is strongly opposed to a divorce, but her wise counsel does not seem to prevail on Mr. Grigg to oppose the daughter's wishes.

A general summary of the case is this: The daughter of a young gentleman every way worthy of love and heart. Everything seems to go happily after the marriage until the lady's eyes fall on a young cadet at West Point, a Mr. C. G. Wagner—who ought to be cashiered from the service—of whom she becomes enamored, whereupon subsequently Mr. Fry suggests to her the impropriety of her course of conduct—when she discovers that Mr. Fry's treatment of her renders her life intolerable, as the subsequently states in her correspondence with her new-found illicit lover, and she rushes for relief to her father, who has always gratified her every whim and caprice, and implores him to get her a divorce. The old man, like Grandfather Whitehead, pats his daughter on the head, and seems to say, "Yes, yes, my child, I will get you a divorce when the Legislature meets; don't cry, I have money enough to employ counsel and the Legislature."

The sympathies of the public, after fully reading the case, are with Mr. Fry, and were it not for the immense wealth of Mr. Grigg, ex-Chief-Justice Lewis, who is his senior counsel, never would have worked so hard in a desperate cause. It is worthy of remark that in the organization of the House of Representatives Judge Lewis's own nephew, Geo. W. Hamersley, has been made Chairman of the Committee on Divorces. Had the case been less conspicuously conducted, possibly a bill of divorce might have passed, but now no honest-minded man in either House will favor it. The only merit any one now admits to be in the case is Mr. Grigg's money; and it is even intimated that Mr. Grigg is becoming apprehensive lest the *immense array of counsel*, flocking in and tendering him their services for money, may eat up his immense estate before they will allow the bill to pass.

If Mr. Grigg had followed the advice of his wife instead of those who counsel him only for money, he would be a richer and happier man; his family would not have been scandalized, and possibly his daughter would have been saved to an honorable and happy future.

An important movement will probably be springing upon the Legislature before the close of the session, which is the repeal of the tonnage tax on the Pennsylvania Railroad, which now amounts to about \$300,000 per annum, and a repeal of the tax on the New-York and Erie, of \$10,000 a year, on that portion of the road which goes through the north-east corner of this State.

POLITICAL.

It is understood at Columbus, Ohio, that Lieut. Gov. Walker declines being a candidate for reelection a decision much regretted by the Republicans of that State.

The Postmaster at Boston and the citizens are at bitter variance. The Postmaster has removed the office from State street to Summer street, not for the convenience of the citizens, but to lease some of his own property to the Federal Government. A spirited public meeting has been held to talk the matter over, but as the authorities at Washington will probably prefer to oblige Mr. Capen and to disoblige Boston, Mr. Capen will do as he pleases.

The Boston County (Ind.) Register puts up the name of Stephen A. Douglas for President, and John R. Tompkins of Alabama for Vice-President, in 1860.

It is said that Mr. Dumas of the Contract Office intends cutting down the postal service to the lowest point. Any contract for carrying the mails may be revoked by the department by giving a month's pay as a gratuity.

The Washington correspondent of *The Charleston Mercury*, a sagacious and outspoken Free-soiler, says: "The debate in the Senate over Hale's amendment, which proposed to nullify the requirement of the Kansas-Nebraska Act of '53, population before admission as a State, has had a marked effect in widening and deepening sectional feeling, which the discussion in the next Congress will more fully show. A few more such blows, and the tie between the Northern and Southern wings of the Democratic party will be cut apart forever."

A Charleston correspondent of the same paper says that this debate proves that "upon the Tariff, and upon the great question of the Territories, which has for thirty years threatened the Union, the two wings of the Democratic party are irreconcilably divided. Either the party at the North must be abolished, or it must be everlastingly."

ORLEANS COUNTY.

Correspondence of *The N. Y. Tribune*.

ALBION, N. Y., March 9, 1859.
The delegates from this county (Orleans) to the Republican State Convention to nominate a candidate for Senator in place of Judge Stow, deceased, are Benj. Field, T. E. G. Pettigall, A. W. Newell, E. C. Bentley, Geo. Simkins, Yours,

PERSONAL.

Dr. Gaillardet, whose mysterious escape from the policeman who had him in charge will be remembered, has arrived safely in Paris. From this city he went to Canada.

Dr. George Abbott of Cairo, whose death was announced two or three days since, was a brother of Dr. Henry Abbott, the collector of the valuable Egyptian Museum.

The bill for divorce, which we mentioned a few days since, as before the Pennsylvania Legislature, wherein the parties were a little girl and a man twice her age, who had kept her father's bar, has been passed. The name of the child was Blair, and of the man, Priestly.

From the last advices, dated February 2, we are able to state that Mr. Sumner's health is slowly but surely improving, and that he expresses himself as certain of being able to resume his Senatorial duties at the commencement of the next session.

Postmaster-General Brown, whose death we announced yesterday, was born in Brunswick County, Va., in August, 1795. He graduated at Chapel Hill University, N. C., in 1814; removed, with his parents, in 1815, to Tennessee, where he studied law, and afterward became the partner of the late James K. Polk. In 1839 he was sent to Congress, being re-elected also in 1841 and 1843. In 1845 he was elected Governor of Tennessee. In March, 1857, he was appointed Postmaster-General by President Buchanan.

The Rochester Union says that Governor Morgan has pardoned Joseph Dix, the convict who assisted the keeper in the fatal "showing of Moore" in the Auburn prison. The feeling against him was so strong among his fellow prisoners that it was not safe to have him among them.

A London correspondent of *The Anti-Slavery Standard* denies that Mr. Dallas shook hands with the black Haytian Minister at the opening of Parliament as has been reported. Did anybody believe that that splendid head of hair had so forgotten itself?

It is said that Mr. Richard Cobden has invited Dr. Bailey of *The National Era* to pass the Summer with him in England, which invitation our friend will probably accept.

Judge Douglas is expected to be in Philadelphia and New-York in the course of next week. Mr. Vice-President Breckinridge will proceed immediately home to Kentucky, where he has important law business. Mr. Broderick will take the Tehuantepec route to California, and will be accompanied by the Hon. J. C. McKibbin, who left here for Philadelphia on Monday last.

A correspondent of *The*